

# John Drew at National and Sam Sothorn at Belasco in Comedies

## English Comedies Rule Boards This Week --- Vachell Play a Premiere Performance.

THERE is always as much discussion over the actual merits of the methods of John Drew as there is over when the new century really begins, and the results are about the same in both instances, the greatest American-Englishman plays, and the century rolls on.

Neither person involved in either argument gets anywhere at all with his point even if he makes it, and no one seems to care whether any point is made at all. Time does not stop to have the question of the century decided, and John Drew, perfect, impeccable, gentlemanly, keeps on playing to houses that make tears of gratitude come to the eyes of the managers, year after year. The question of whether he is to be numbered among the immortals, though discussed periodically, worries nobody, least of all the audiences. And aside, it might be recalled that they are the ones who decide about the immortality after all.

Always at the proper moment, someone presents Mr. Drew with a play, which fits him, may we say, technically, dramatically, and artistically. Horace Annesley Vachell is the latest dramatic tailor to fit Mr. Drew out with a new vehicle.

In "The Chief," we are to see an Englishman's idea of an Englishman, as portrayed by an American actor of English blood.

The author was born in England, educated at Harrow and Sandhurst, and almost every year since 1884 has produced a book or play. His ability to present the character of an Englishman is unquestioned.

And the actor—we know too well to discuss. Besides, his list of English plays is too long to print here.

SAM SOTHERN, brother of Edward H. is to be seen at the Belasco Theater this week in "A Pair of Silk Stockings," a comedy.

For Sam Sothorn is, they say, as greatly beloved on the other side as his brother is here, and is the comedian deluxe of the English stage.

New York has taken most kindly to "Around the Map," the musical extravaganza which opened here, and is thoroughly charmed with Elsie Aider, the young Viennese prima donna, who made her American debut in the National Theater in that production.

National: "The Chief," Comedy by Horace Annesley Vachell, John Drew, and Laura Hope Crews.

One of the most important events of the local theatrical season here will be John Drew's appearance at the National Theater tomorrow night to begin a week's engagement, with the customary Wednesday and Saturday matinees.

He will be seen in a new comedy, entitled "The Chief," to have its first stage presentation in this city, by Horace Annesley Vachell, an English author, who has to his credit a number of entertaining books, and who has recently taken to play writing with remarkable success. In all the scenes Mr. Drew is a constant figure, employed comically and seriously. The story of the comedy runs as follows:

Lord Yester, familiarly known as the Chief, is a wealthy widower whose home is looked after by his sister-in-law, Emily Barzou. He had been in love with a charming girl before his marriage, but the girl, who had been broken off by Emily's designing mother, with the result that he married Emily's sister, and Emily at the beginning of the play, aided and abetted by her mother, is using all her wiles to become his second wife. Yester has a ward, Daphne Kenyon, who has been away at school. In anticipation of her return, he has partially arranged a marriage between her and Lord Wrexham, son of the Duke of Drax, Daphne, on the other hand, makes it plain that she will have none of Wrexham, having fallen in love with Yester's secretary, Derek Waring, this unknown fact Yester, Yester's former love, who has been made a widow, and who has arrived in London from India, telephones Yester that she desires an interview with him. This knowledge reaching Mrs. Barzou, she privately, to her daughter Emily, attempts to appear as a rival for the affection of the young man. A bit later Mrs. Vanstair appears, a charming woman of the world, very much down on her hands, in a delightful comedy scene with Yester, she frankly admits her need of money and borrows quite a sum from him, giving him a check and a diamond ring, in addition she proposes that he become his private secretary. The clearing of Mrs. Vanstair's name from a charge of theft, the discovery of the real thief, the straightening out of Daphne's love affairs, and the diplomatic avoidance of becoming Mrs. Barzou's son-in-law for the second time, keep Drew busily occupied and constantly amusing through three acts.

"The Chief" will be beautifully staged, and Mr. Drew will be surrounded by his customary excellent company. Notable among the players is Laura Hope Crews, the well-known and distinguished comedienne, other members of the organization are George Graham, Echin Gayer, Walter Soderling, William Barnes, Thelma Lawrence, Constance Bailey, and Katherine Stewart.

Belasco: "A Pair of Silk Stockings," Comedy, by Cyril Harcourt.

CYRIL HARCOURT's delightful comedy, "A Pair of Silk Stockings," with Sam Sothorn in the leading role will be presented at the Belasco Theater for the entire week, beginning tomorrow night. This comedy comes to this city with the recommendation of one season in London and New York to its credit. In the latter place it had the added distinction of playing at the exclusive Little Theater, the artistic playhouse under the direction of Mr. Winthrop Ames, by whom also, the play was produced.

Smartness, in the keynote of its success, and the author has furnished in it a glimpse into the inner circle of English society that shows the Englishmen in a very different light from what the majority of playwrights have made



JOHN DREW - National -

MARY PICKFORD Loew's Columbia

him in the widely prevalent "illy ass" type. Two men, a former admirer and the former husband—guests at a week-end party in an English country home discover each other invading the room of the recently divorced wife, and one of the intruders being mistaken, in his amateur theatrical make-up, for a burglar, is securely bound by the aid of the pretty divorcee herself, with no less interesting result than her own silk stockings. When these turn up the next morning in an unusual manner it can be seen that no simple knot is yet to be untied.

Mr. Ames has provided his usual excellent cast. Heading it is Sam Sothorn, a younger brother of Edward H., who is just as popular with English theatergoers as the elder brother in this country. Added interest will be found in the fact of a Washington girl, Miss Gladys Knorr, being the only American member of the cast.

Polis: "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," Stock Production.

EW plays have ever been seen in Washington which have attracted such audiences as "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," Eugene Walter's graphic dramatization of John Fox, Jr.'s novel of the same name, which was one of the six "best sellers" for more than a year. It will be the offering of the Polis Theater this week, when Miss Florence Rittenhouse will return to the cast, after an absence of three weeks, and will be seen in the delightful, ingenious role of the barefooted June.

A. H. Van Buren will play the role of the young civil engineer who goes into the mountains of Virginia to make a survey for a railroad, and who is confronted by strenuous opposition of June's father, a mountaineer.

The young engineer's first meeting with June takes place at the foot of the lonesome pine, which guards the trail leading to June's mountain cabin. It is a scene of unusual and impressive beauty, and most of the romantic episodes of the play take place in the same setting.

Mark Kent will be seen in the role of Jud Tolliver, the part created by William S. Hart, and there will be numerous clever character bits in which the other members of the Polis cast will appear to great advantage.

Keith's: Vaudeville, Bernard Granville, Homer B. Mason & Company.

REYNARD GRANVILLE, but recently the principal bit of "A Midnight Frolic," "All Over Town," and "He Comes Up Smiling," will be seen for the first time in high-class vaudeville at the B. F. Keith Theater this week. Mr. Granville is accompanied by a pianist only in the presentation of an interlude formed of songs, stories, and dances. His present engagement is for a few weeks only, after which he expects to head "Watch Your Step" in the role vacated by Vernon Castle, who has been commissioned an aviator in the English flying corps. The supplementary leading attraction will be Homer B. Mason, Marguerite Keeler and company, in "Married," by Porter Emerson Browne, author of "A Fool There Was," James and Bonnie Long's immortal masterpiece, will be the last four days of the week, starting on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, with Mary Pickford in the celebrated role of Che-Cho-San.

FLORENCE RITTENHOUSE Polis

Loew's Columbia: Marguerite Clark and Mary Pickford.

MARGUERITE CLARK, in "Still Waters," the first three days of the week, and Mary Pickford in "Madame Butterfly," the last four days of the week, including Sunday, is the important announcement made of the attraction this week by Loew's Columbia Theater.

The film of "Still Waters," which begins at 10:30 tomorrow with Marguerite Clark in the leading role, was written especially for that comedienne by Edith Howard Deane. It is a story of circus and canal boat life. A splendid opportunity for emotional work is offered by the role of Nedra, the little girl who is to all intents and purposes a prisoner on a canal boat, where she is kept by her grandfather in the hope of preventing her from running away to be a circus rider. The grandfather's fears are realized, for Nedra runs away and joins a circus, where she soon finds herself the prey of the brutal ringmaster who lures her to a forsaken canal boat.

His present transpire in and around the circus, an entire traveling show was leased by the Famous Players, and Harry La Pearl, one of the most celebrated clowns that ever appeared at the New York Hippodrome, was specially engaged to play opposite Miss Clark. These circus scenes combine daring performances with thrilling dramatic action.

"Madame Butterfly," John Luther Long's immortal masterpiece, will be the last four days of the week, starting on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, with Mary Pickford in the celebrated role of Che-Cho-San.

Casino: "Bringing Up Father," Musical Comedy, Management of Gus Hill.

WITH a number of new ideas in musical comedy production, including the engagement of prominent vaudeville artists who give specialties during the presentation, Gus Hill has staged a musical comedy that is said to have many original elements in "Bringing Up Father," booked for the Casino Theater this week. The piece is based on the famous newspaper cartoons of George McManus, under the same name.

The Casino's fall next week is the first offered under the new management, the Fredrickson Amusement Company, who have just leased the theater. Under the management of Fred W. Fatiguer, of New York, the theater will continue the presentation of popular Broadway successes of recent years at popular prices. These will include plays as well as musical entertainments.

In "Bringing Up Father" there is promised much catchy music, a bevy of pretty girls, and a specially selected beauty chorus. The piece is elaborately staged, and there are new electrical and lighting effects.

The cartoons from which the play

BERNARD GRANVILLE Keith's

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## This Week's Calendar

NATIONAL—"The Chief," comedy, premier performance, by Horace Annesley Vachell, with John Drew and Laura Hope Crews. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, 2:15. Evenings, 8:15. Friday, afternoon, 4:30. Ossip Gabrilowitch, pianist. Fourth in Ten Star Series.

BELASCO—"A Pair of Silk Stockings," comedy, with Sam Sothorn. New York and London, one season each. Matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, 2:15. Evenings, 8:15.

POLIS—"The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," stock production of dramatization of John Fox's novel. With A. H. Van Buren and Florence Rittenhouse. Matinees, daily, 2:15. Evenings, 8:15.

KEITH'S—Vaudeville. Bernard Granville. Matinees, daily, 2:15. Evenings, 8:15. Sunday performances, 3 and 8:15.

GAYETY—Burlesque. Al Reeves' "Beauty Show." Matinees, daily, 2:15. Evenings, 8:15. Sunday performances, 3 and 8.

CASINO—Traveling stock. "Bringing Up Father," by Gus Hill. Matinees, daily, 2:15. Evenings, 8:15.

LOEW'S COLUMBIA—Films. Marguerite Clark in "Still Waters," first three days of week. Mary Pickford in "Madame Butterfly," last four days of week. From 10:30 a. m. until 11 p. m., daily.

scored the longest run in the history of the English stage.

A. H. Van Buren will be seen in the part created by Mr. Hawtry, that of a wealthy young bachelor, who, selfishness and egotism cause him to be visited by the messenger from Mars, who takes him on a tour of the stars of London, and shows him the littleness of his own soul.

In the role of the bachelor's sweetheart, Miss Florence Rittenhouse is expected to create a most favorable impression, and Mark Kent will have the rich character role of the tramp, who Ben Taggart will be seen as the commanding messenger from Mars.

The production is of the most elaborate scenic effects and complicated electrical devices.

Thanksgiving week there will be two matinees and one evening performance at Keith's Theater, the first or extra matinee occurring at 12 o'clock noon, the other at 3 p. m. sharp, and the night show as usual. On all other days that week only the usual two-day matinee will be given. Seats can be purchased now. The bill features "The Million Dollars," a comedy, by John Barry, with Emilie Lee heading an immense company of mannequins, midwives, and models, and "Cinderella," furnishing an opportunity for the exhibit of gowns and gowns from the great style makers of America, Paris, and London. There are seven scenes. Other attractions will be Lillian Kingsbury and company in "The Toward," and "The Girl Who Smiles," the delightful musical comedy in three acts, by Paul Herve, with English version by Edward A. Paulsen and music by Jean Briquet and Adolf Phillips, authors of "Alma," "Adèle," and "The Midnight Girl," will be seen at the Belasco Theater next week.

This opera has spoiled all proverbial traditions of comic opera. In the first place it has a real plot, and tells a story of real heart interest, even daring to introduce bits of pathos between the scenes. Another departure is that the leading role is played by a baritone, rather than the usual tenor.

There are three acts with twenty-one musical numbers. The first and last acts are laid in a country home in Argenteuil, France, while the second act takes place in a typical artist's studio in the Latin quarter of Paris.

In addition to Natalie Alt, George Baldwin, William Danforth, Grace Leigh, others prominent in the cast are: Fred Walton, Marie Fanchonetti, Lucille Saunders, Lillian Spencer, Ralph Bunker, Paul Becker, Paul Hyde Davies, Joseph Phillips, and Nacio Bonville, and others. There will be a special matinee Thanksgiving Day.

At the National Theater for the week beginning Monday, November 22, Messrs. Selwyn & Co. will offer "Twin Beds," a farcical comedy in three acts written by Salisbury Field and Margaret Mayo, which has been a success in the international success "Baby Mine."

This amusing play was first presented in New York more than a year ago at the Fulton Theater and made a tremendous hit. The management makes a point of the fact that while "Twin Beds" deals with things that are no more or less intimate, it never, although being uproariously funny, transcends the boundaries of good taste, and is as clean, clean and wholesome. The company includes among its members, Lois Bolton, John Welch, Clara Weiden, Susanne Morgan, Auguste Aramini, Helen Eddy, and Fred Ozab. The usual Wednesday and Saturday matinees will be given, with an extra one on Thanksgiving Day.

The Poli Players will be seen next week in "The Dowry Seekers," a comedy drama, "A Message From Mars," which, with the possible exception of "Charlie's Aunt," has

the Casino Theater for Thanksgiving week will present Benoit's drama, "Damaged Goods," which proved a successful hit at the Fulton Theater, New York, for more than 200 performances. "Damaged Goods" is strong and its presentation of truth, which, although not always welcome, cannot be denied.

(Continued on Page Thirteen.)

## Attractions Coming Here Next Week

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## Triangle Films to Be Shown in Capital

TOM MOORE, owner and proprietor of the Strand and Garden Theaters, announces the closing of a contract with the Triangle Film Company for the exclusive presentation of their pictures at the garden Theater. This progressive step of Mr. Moore's is expected to prove of great interest to the picture lovers of this city, as the formation of the Triangle company a few months ago by D. W. Griffith, Mack Sennett and Thomas W. Ince fairly startled the film world.

As directors and organizers these men stand at the pinnacle of filmdom. It was Griffith who gave the world "The Birth of a Nation." Ince has won an international reputation with his photo productions staged at the celebrated Los Angeles studio known as "Inceville," and Mack Sennett is the creator of the marvelously funny Keystone farce comedies.

Mr. Moore when seen at his office in the Garden Theater building confirmed the making of the contract. "The Triangle Company," said Mr. Moore, "were anxious to book their productions with me. As you know I am a great advocate of popular prices and I was afraid the company would raise a decided raise in their rates of admission. The cost of their service is exceedingly high, fully 200 per cent more than the rental price of the standard feature, and their pictures are worth every cent they ask for them. I am bringing these pictures to Washington as it is in line with my policy to present only the very best in film play.

"At the Garden the program will consist of a strong five or six reel dramatic subject and a two or three reel Keystone comedy, each production featuring a well known star. The pictures will be changed twice a week, opening on Sunday and Thursday.

"The Triangle company have under contract the following popular players: Miss Billie Burke, Helen Ware, Willie Collier, Weber and Fields, Willard Mack, De Wolfe Hopper, Tully Marshall, Beulah Barrister, Dustin Farnum, Edna Foy and the Seven Little Foxes, Raymond Hitchcock, Mabel Normand, Lillian Gish, Julia Hann, Frank Miller, Edna May, Frank Tannehill, Dorothy Gish, Thomas B. Jefferson, Mae Marsh, H. B. Warner, Henry Woodruff, Truly Shattuck, Douglas Fairbanks, Roxiea Dolly, John Emerson and other famous actors and actresses.

"The Triangle plays open November 28. The opening attraction will be a double bill consisting of Douglas Fairbanks in "The Lamb," an Irish picture and "My Valet," featuring Raymond Hitchcock, Mabel Normand, Mack Sennett, Fred Mac and Roscoe Arbuckle.

"The last half of the week will be taken up by Dustin Farnum in the Griffith production "The Iron Griftin," and the Keystone Players in "A Game Old Knight." The regular matinee prices will prevail, while the admission charged is approximately the same as at present since the slight extra rate of 5 cents for the evening shows is balanced by reason of a longer performance, double quality and two feature productions for the price of one."

## Today's Concerts

Today at 3 and 8:15 p. m., at the B. F. Keith Theater, performances will be given at which the bill will present Dorothy Jordan, Miss Beulah Lubowka, Francis Dooley, and Corinne Sales. Julia Blane and company, Crossman's eight entertainers; Mito, Betty Bond, and Jimmie Mason, Delmore and Lee, and other added and special attractions.

In addition to the laughable travesty, entitled "Casey and Duffy Visit Panama," produced in two acts, the Gayety management has arranged for a special Sunday vaudeville program as follows: A singing and dancing specialty by Calvert, Shane and Bland, the three boys with educated feet; Jolly John Larkins, the "black smoke" in songs, stories and imitations; Isaac Kesner, a female act-shoe dancer, and Pete Curley and Joe Buckley, comedy entertainers of speech. There will be fifteen big musical numbers rendered by the chorus.

## Vaughn Class of Calvary Baptist Church Gives Annual Concert

An event of considerable interest in musical circles is the twenty-fifth annual concert of the Vaughn Class of Calvary Baptist Sunday School, which